

**General Remarks**

Claims 1, 6-11, 13-20, and 49-55 are pending. Claims 21-24, 31-33 and 40-44 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 2-5, 12, 25-30, 34-39 and 45-48 were canceled by previous amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the patentability of Claims 1, 6-10, and 15-20.

Though Applicants disagree with the pending rejections of claims 11, 13, 14, 49, and 51- 55, Applicants have canceled these claims through the amendments herein in the interest of advancing prosecution of the allowed claims, and specifically without any prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue these canceled claims in one or more continuation applications. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue these claims at a later time.

The Examiner indicated that Claim 15 is allowable. To this end, claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 56.

The Examiner also indicated that Claim 50 would be allowable if rewritten in an independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To this end, Applicants have added new claim 57 which represents claim 50 as rewritten in an independent fashion.

Appl. No. 10/668,843  
Docket No. 82410.0065 - 0B-045100US  
Response dated January 10, 2007  
Responsive to Office Action dated October 10, 2006

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicants request prompt reconsideration of the pending claims. Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and seek allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the filing of this amendment. If any fees are due with the filing of this document, including fees for the net addition of claims and/or any extension fees, the undersigned respectfully requests that any and all fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1129. If any extension of time request or any petition is required for the entry of this paper or any of the accompanying papers, Applicants hereby petition or request the extension necessary. The undersigned authorizes any fee payment from Deposit Account No. 50-1129. If there is any variance between the fee submitted and any fee required, or if the payment or fee payment information has been misplaced or is somehow insufficient to provide payment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 50-1129.

Respectfully submitted,

**WILEY REIN & FIELDING LLP**

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